

## TRIBUTE TO CHRIS CUTRONE

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to stand before you today and pay tribute to a truly heroic individual from my district. Colorado State Patrol K9 Technician Chris Cutrone of Cortez, Colorado was shot three times while on an otherwise routine traffic stop, nearly ending his life. It is my privilege to pay tribute to Chris in recognition of his inspirational service to the State of Colorado.

Chris was shot after pulling over a car with stolen license plates on a rural highway near the Ute Indian reservation. After being shot, Chris made his way to a nearby casino, where an employee was able to call for help. His most critical wound was a shot to the chest just above his bulletproof vest. After several weeks in critical condition, Chris was released from the hospital and is making a steady recovery.

During his five years with the Colorado State Patrol, Chris has been rapidly promoted and just last spring achieved the rank of technician. He has been described by his peers as a zealous officer who is very dedicated to his profession. Most importantly, Chris is a loving husband and father to two young children.

Chris Cutrone displayed signs of bravery long before he was shot. State patrolmen risk their lives each and everyday to protect the citizens of our state. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chris for his dedication to the protection of Colorado's citizens and wish him the best for a full and speedy recovery. It is truly an honor to recognize his bravery and dedication before my colleagues in this distinguished body here today.

TRIBUTE TO MOTE MARINE LABORATORY'S 25-YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF SARASOTA

**HON. KATHERINE HARRIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable partnership between the City of Sarasota, Florida and Mote Marine Laboratory that continues to thrive in its third decade. On October 27, 2003, this extraordinary institution will celebrate its 25th anniversary at its current site on Sarasota's City Island. I am proud to have served as a volunteer and advisory council member for this remarkable organization for the last seventeen years.

Founded in 1955 as the Cape Haze Marine Laboratory, Mote Marine Laboratory began as a two-room field station located in Placida, Florida. Under the direction of Dr. Eugenie Clark, the Laboratory developed a strong reputation in shark research over its first decade, during which it moved to Sarasota's Siesta Key. In 1967, the Laboratory assumed its current name to honor the major contributions of William R. Mote and his sister Elizabeth Mote Rose.

Despite its growing prominence as a center for marine research, the emerging inadequacy

of Mote Marine Laboratory's Siesta Key location brought its future in Sarasota into doubt. The vision and determination of Sarasota's leaders, however, forged a dynamic public-private relationship that enabled the laboratory to remain in Sarasota, while fueling its dramatic evolution into the powerhouse of education and exploration that we celebrate today.

Today, as one of the preeminent marine research facilities in the world, Mote Marine Laboratory encompasses seven research centers that conduct a diverse variety of studies, which range from sharks and marine mammal behavior to biomedicine and aquaculture, as well as from manatee and dolphin conservation to coral reefs, red tide, fisheries, and coastal ecology. Moreover, the laboratory has expanded its scope to include year-round marine science educational programs. Through its traditional on-campus offerings and student internships as well as through its interactive teleconferencing SeaTrek program and its participation as a Primary Interactive Network Site for National Geographic Explorer-in-residence Dr. Robert Ballard's JASON Project, Mote Marine Laboratory reaches more than 30,000 students in 22 Florida school districts. SeaTrek and JASON have enabled students to climb Hawaiian volcanoes, explore the wilds of Alaska, walk on rainforest treetop canopies in rainforests, and encounter underwater marine sanctuaries—often without leaving their classroom or the laboratory's campus.

Mote Marine Laboratory has also become a resource of discovery and imagination for persons of all ages from Southwest Florida and around the globe. In 1980, the laboratory opened the Mote Marine Science Center. Now known as the Mote Aquarium, the original one-room visitor center has evolved into a world-class facility that has received accreditation from the American Zoo and Aquarium Association and the American Association of Museums. Now hosting 400,000 visitors every year, Mote Aquarium has become the top tourist attraction in Sarasota.

Mr. Speaker, this amazing institution could not have developed without the commitment and foresight of several outstanding public servants, businesses, and private individuals, including the local officials who saved the laboratory for Sarasota: Mayor Elmer Berkel, Vice-Mayor Tony Saprito, and Commissioners Ron Norman, Fred Soto, and Ted Spurling, who in 1976 provided 4.5 acres of land on City Island for the laboratory's new location; the Arvida Corporation, which generously donated 2.2 acres of waterfront property for that facility; William R. Mote, the Honorable Bob Johnson, Dr. Perry Gilbert, then City Manager Ken Thompson, and then Arvida Vice-President John Siegel, who spurred the creation of the unique public-private partnership between the City of Sarasota and Mote Marine Laboratory; the members of the 1992 City Commission (Mayor Jack Gurney, Vice-Mayor Gene Pillot, Commissioners Fredd Atkins, David Merrill, Nora Patterson, and then City Manager David Sollenberger) who arranged for the addition of 3.5 acres of land to the laboratory's complex for the construction of the Ann and Alfred Goldstein Marine Mammal Center for Research and Rehabilitation; and the current leaders of Sarasota's city government (Mayor Lou Ann Palmer, Vice Mayor Richard Martin, Commissioners Fredd Atkins, Danny Bilyeu, Mary Anne Servian, and City Manager Michael McNees).

We venerate their indispensable contributions, together with the incredible leadership that Mote Marine Laboratory continues to receive from the Chairman of its Board of Trustees, Monfort Runyan, and its Executive Director, Dr. Kumar Mahadevan. We also honor the sterling scientists and other professionals who comprise the laboratory's staff, as well as the dedicated corps of 8,000 members and 1,600 volunteers who serve as aquarium guides, turtle patrols, dolphin and whale hospital volunteers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RIGHT TO KNOW SCHOOL NUTRITION ACT

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue that has the potential to affect the lives of 27 million of our children across the nation, who are participants in the National School Lunch Program or the National School Breakfast Program.

The issue is the inclusion of irradiated food in federally-funded programs that are designed to help our disadvantaged children. Last year's Farm Bill opened the door for school districts to purchase irradiated food for use in our school feeding programs.

There are many questions that remain about the scientific validity of serving irradiated products to our growing kids, particularly in regards to nutritious content and the long term-effects of regular consumption of irradiated food.

In anticipation of issuing regulations on serving irradiated food, the U.S. Department of Agriculture opened a comment period for the public to express its opinion on irradiated food. An overwhelming number of the comments received by USDA opposed serving irradiated food in the national school lunch program, over 90% in fact.

Four school boards in California have already moved to ban irradiated food products in their schools, including the city of Berkeley in my district, Point Arena, Ukiah, and Los Angeles Unified. And based on a recent survey conducted by the public interest group Public Citizen, many more school districts and states have indicated that they will not purchase or serve irradiated food during this school year.

But for those school districts and states that may decide to serve irradiated food, under current regulations, there is no requirement for irradiated food to be clearly labeled at lunch areas where it is served. In addition, parents and children who rely on our school nutrition programs are not given the option to refuse irradiated products, and they will have no choice but to eat whatever type of food is served that day.

I am seeking to correct this current deficiency in law by introducing the Right to Know School Nutrition Act. My bill would require the USDA to ensure that: Balanced information on irradiation is given to parents and children before such products are served; that a standard option of non-irradiated food products be served at every meal; that irradiated food be properly labeled and appropriate signage be displayed in the lunch room; and finally, that irradiated and non-irradiated food products are not commingled.

The Right to Know School Nutrition Act represents a simple commonsense solution that empowers individual parents and children to decide for themselves what they will eat. I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this bill in order to protect our children from the potential dangers of irradiated food products and to preserve consumer choice.

#### TRIBUTE TO STARS BICYCLE REPAIR PROGRAM

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress today to honor an outstanding community program. The Grand Junction Parks and Recreation STARS Bicycle Repair Program collects old, used bicycles, repairs them, and places them in the hands of children who would not otherwise know the joy of owning their own bicycle. In the process, the program teaches the children of our community both responsibility and community service. It is for these notable accomplishments that I recognize the STARS Program here today.

The idea for STARS originated in the Central High School El Pomar Youth in Community Service Club. This club helped to found the STARS Bicycle Repair Program and enabled the program to collect bikes, repair them and distribute them to needy individuals and families. There is simply no substitute for the joy in a young child's eyes when he is the recipient of one of STARS' refurbished bikes.

The STARS program allows the children to learn, hands-on, how to repair and maintain bicycles. More than that, they learn that there are many ways that everyone, even children, can help the community.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in honoring the Grand Junction Parks and Recreation STARS Bicycle Repair Program. Through STARS, the children of our community learn responsibility and the excitement of being a positive force in the community. Recognition for this program is long overdue, and I am privileged to honor the STARS Bicycle Repair Program here today.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN C. SPERRY

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Mr. John C. Sperry. John is retiring from the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 324 after 30 years of dedicated service. He is the second most senior International Vice President in the UFCW.

When President Arthur Berland retired in 1973, Local 324 had 12,000 members with wages at \$187.30 per week. John C. Sperry was elected by the Executive Board to succeed Berland. I was a member of Local 324 myself, and was employed at the SavOn drug store in Anaheim—scooping ice cream. I was a very good ice cream scooper, and was thrilled to be a member of the UFCW.

John started as a Box Boy (now called "Courtesy Clerk") at age 15. He worked part-time at a Safeway Market. He then worked as a Box Boy and Produce and Food Clerk at Alpha Beta, A&P, Shopping Bag and Hiram's—the latter being subsequently bought by the Lucky supermarket chain. He was hired on May 4, 1959 as a Union Organizer, and then elected (the practice at the time) as Union Representative. He was confirmed as President of Local 324 in 1975, and has been re-elected unanimously 10 times since then—quite a record of longevity and leadership.

John has served as the acknowledged leader and official spokesperson of the UFCW in Southern California for 28 years. He has served for decades on the food industry's Joint Labor Management (JLM) Committee, is one of two rank-and-file officials in the National JLM, and was for 20 years Chairman of Food Benefits Trust and Secretary of the Pension Fund.

With John as the spokesperson and chief negotiator for all Southern California UFCW Locals, wages have gone from under \$200 per week when he became President to the current \$716 for Clerks and \$767.20 for Meat Cutters. In addition there have been vast increases in Health and Welfare and Pension benefits; establishment of weekly hour guarantees; establishment of the Defined Contribution Plan; creation of the "Golden 85 (full retirement benefits for active participants with 30 full-time credited service years at age 55); establishment of the Housing and Educational Fund; and combining of the Food and Meat Agreements to increase the Union's bargaining Power. John was the force behind the UFCW work stoppage of 1978 that resulted in significant increases in wages, night premiums, health benefits and pensions for union members.

From its earliest years, Local 324 has participated in many community activities, with the goal of improving the quality of life of all those who live in Southern California. Under President Sperry, the Union Local has earned a reputation as one of the most general philanthropic organizations in the state for its consistent financial support of worthy causes.

With some 24,000 members, UFCW Local 324 is the eighth largest Union Local in the UFCW. No other sister Local in the United States or Canada enjoys a better or more strictly enforced collective bargaining agreement, a statement that has been true primarily as a result of the leadership of John C. Sperry.

We will all miss John, but know that he will continue to be of counsel to not only Local 324 but also the national union. I will miss him as my union president, and count him not only as a leader, but a valued friend and advisor.

#### STATE DEPARTMENT TERRORISM VIDEO OFFENSIVE, MUST BE WITHDRAWN

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently the State Department put out a video called "Terrorism: A War Without Borders" that is offensive. The video portrays all Sikhs as terrorists.

This characterization is inaccurate. It is also offensive to any fair-minded person. How can the State Department portray an entire group as terrorists? Secretary Powell should order the immediate withdrawal of this offensive video. This kind of stereotyping is simply unacceptable.

There are more than half a million Sikhs in the United States. Are they all terrorists, Mr. Speaker? They are active in all phases of American life, from law to medicine to agriculture to information technology. These are people who contribute a lot to America's way of life. Many of them were attacked after September 11, yet they still believe in America.

To label all Sikhs terrorists demeans the Sikh people, their faith, and their national aspirations and culture. This is extremely unfair. Yet the video consistently labels Sikhs as "terrorists" while ignoring the brutal atrocities carried out against minorities by the Indian government. For example, the video's description of the attack on the Golden Temple in June 1984 simply refers to "Sikhs," thus condemning all Sikhs as members of a terrorist organization.

What the video ignores is that Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, and many other Sikh leaders took refuge in the Golden Temple to protect themselves from the atrocities that the Indian government was already carrying out. They had been threatened with violence for peacefully speaking out on behalf of the rights of their people.

Over 20,000 Sikhs were killed over that three-day period in June 1984 as the Indian government attacked the Golden Temple and 38 other Sikh Gurdwaras throughout Punjab to frighten the Sikhs and end their movement to free themselves. Instead, just as Bhindranwale predicted, they laid the foundations for an independent Sikh state called Khalistan, which finally declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. Let me be among the first to congratulate the Sikhs on the upcoming anniversary of that event.

Mr. Speaker, we all seek good relations with India. But it is offensive and inappropriate to suppress atrocities and spread inaccurate propaganda to achieve this objective. Why is our government placing the derogatory label of terrorist on an entire people? This is not something the government of the United States, which was founded on tolerance, should be doing.

The State Department should immediately remove this from circulation immediately so that it can either be corrected or withdrawn. Fairness demands that we stop labelling entire peoples with derogatory characterizations like "terrorist."

Our government should stop American aid and trade with India until the Sikhs, the Nagas, the Kashmins and all the people of South Asia enjoy full freedom and democratic rights and we should strongly and actively support these peoples in their effort to have self-determination in free and independent states.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the recent letter from International Sikh Organization to Secretary of State Powell about this video into the RECORD.

GURU GOBIND SINGH JI, TENTH MASTER

*Washington, DC, July 29, 2003.*

Hon. COLIN POWELL

*Secretary of State, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SECRETARY POWELL: On behalf of the 25 million strong Sikh Nation and over